



Democratic State of the Union Response Center

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A PRESCRIPTION FOR PROFIT

REPUBLICANS PROTECT HMOS WHILE SENIORS STRUGGLE TO PAY DRUG BILLS

While millions of seniors struggle to pay for their prescription drugs, Republicans refused to take meaningful steps to lower drug prices. They chose instead to protect the wealthy corporate interests that put them in power. That's because over the past four years, the pharmaceutical industry has given \$40 million to Republicans. It was a smart investment. The big drug companies helped write the Bush prescription drug bill, and they got everything they wanted.

DRUG COMPANY WISH LIST	IN FINAL PROGRAM?	SENIORS LOSE!
Diluting Seniors' Purchasing Power	✓	Because seniors will be split into many different private plans, they will not be able to leverage their purchasing power to get lower prices. And Medicare is prohibited from negotiating lower prices on behalf of seniors – so drug prices stay high.
Meaningless Reimportation Provisions	✓	Reimportation provisions effectively prevent seniors from getting lower priced drugs from other countries.
Huge Windfall Profits	✓	Because Medicare can't negotiate for lower drug prices for seniors, drug companies will see as much as an additional \$139 billion in profits over six years.
No Public Scrutiny of Secret Drug Company / Insurer Kickback Arrangement	✓	Drug companies can make secret backroom deals with insurance companies to promote certain drugs and boost company profits – and seniors will never know.